**PERSONAL PROFILE**

My parents completely uprooted and left their whole lives behind in Uruguay for a better life in the United States. I was young, only six years old, so it seems to me like I completely grew up here because I don’t remember a lot about life in Uruguay. Photographs help jog my memory a little bit but, for the most part, I feel like a normal American kid who just happens to speak another language fluently. My father was a very hard worker and took up many different trades; plumbing, A/C, and electrician, among others. He also held management positions. My mother, on the other hand, raised our large family. She had six kids! It seems like a lot to me. She still works hard to make sure her family is happy. My parents both saw a stark contrast in the lives we could have here versus there, and they took the opportunity to change. I’m so glad they did.

I’ve always loved art, in all forms. I’ve been drawing since I could hold a crayon. As I grew up, I started painting and in junior high, I got involved with theatre. I absolutely loved theatre. I did it for three years and ended up receiving all sorts of awards for it. In high school, I did not pursue theatre but instead I dove into digital drawings. My only tool was a stylus and my canvas a screen. Again, I did that for a few years. I would draw pictures for whoever wanted one or I’d make them and give them as gifts. Now, my main focus is school and work. I have always loved school. I think it’s because I know I am getting a much greater education than what would have been available to me in Uruguay. I’m grateful for good education.

For my honeymoon not too long ago, I had the amazing opportunity to go to Hawaii. It sparked a huge interest in travel for me. My husband had already been to Hawaii a couple times and had also had the chance to travel to Mexico, Guatemala, and Honduras as well. But the most I had traveled was to neighboring states so Hawaii was a big deal for me. We got to see a different lifestyle, a different way of living. The locals all seemed so happy, warm, and lively. In Utah, it is sometimes difficult to hold a conversation with someone you don’t know. But it was so easy to chat with just about anyone in Hawaii. It seemed so different to me because there is so much to do there that people don’t have the time to be consumed in their cellphones. I really admired that.

While we were there, we got to go snorkeling. The ocean is a whole new world! The last time I had been in the ocean I was six years old. I was so surprised at what I had been missing out on. There were fish of all shapes and sizes, in any color you could think of. They twirled and dove all around you. We even got to swim with turtles. I had never had the chance to be so close to wildlife, let alone marine life. While snorkeling, I noticed the coral was changing color. It was turning white. This made me realize how truly fortunate we were to be able to see it before it is gone someday. It made me more aware of the fact that we must take care of the ocean and the earth as a whole. I also realized how lucky we are to live in a time where travel is so easy. You can just hop on a plane and see the other side of the world. I hope one day I can explore the rest of the world with my husband. Hopefully, just like Hawaii, it’ll have a great impact on me.